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given us this aid in regard to the Lichens, and Dr. Ida S. Kellar is now engaged in preparing for us this necessary key to our several collections of marine Algæ. May we not hope for an early completion of similar work upon the Mosses, Hepaticæ and Fungi?

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN H. REDFIELD,

Conservator.

REPORT OF THE MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SECTION.

The meetings of the Section with the Academy have been held regularly every other month during the year, in addition to which several distinct meetings have also been held. The attendance has not been large in numbers, the membership of the Section being quite small, but the interest has been considerable and the additions to the cabinet, while not as great as in some former years, have been satisfactory. The Director regrets to say that there do not seem to be many of the younger members of the Academy interested in mineralogy and geology, so that the membership instead of increasing has decreased.

It is proposed during the spring of 1892 to inaugurate a series of excursions, which it is hoped may serve, not only to interest the members, but also to so attract the attention of others not members that they may be induced to become such.

Respectfully submitted,

THEO. D. RAND,

Director.

REPORT OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION.

The Ornithological Section was formally organized Sept. 14th, 1891, permission having been previously granted by the Academy.

The primary objects in organizing the Section were the encouragement of ornithological study at the Academy and the improvement and enlargement of its ornithological collections.

The collection numbering some 30,000 specimens is one of the finest in the world, and is probably the best *general* collection in

this country, while the large number of type specimens makes it extremely valuable.

The arrangement of the collection is, however, still in accordance with the ideas of forty years ago. That is to say, nearly all the specimens are mounted and crowded into exhibition cases, where they are not only exposed to light and dust but are very inconvenient for study. Until within the past year or two no provision has been made for a collection of skins such as constitutes the most important part of all the great ornithological collections of to-day.

In consideration of these facts it seems of the greatest importance that the large series of duplicates which now crowd the museum cases should be unmounted, leaving of course enough specimens to illustrate all the various types of bird life, as well as a collection of all the species of North American birds in their different seasonal plumage and a complete series of the birds of Pennsylvania and New Jersey with their nests and eggs. The specimens that are unmounted can be placed in air tight cases of drawers where they will be easily available for study and forever safe from the ravages of insects or exposure to the light. The specimens retained in the museum, on the other hand, can be remounted where it is necessary and the old stands can be renewed or repainted. The exhibition series thus improved will undoubtedly prove much more interesting and instructive than the maze of specimens which is now exhibited and which tends to confuse the general visitor. The space gained by the removal of the duplicates will enable the wall cases to be dispensed with and the amount of light obtained in the gallery will be thus greatly increased. The plan outlined is the one that has been adopted in all the large museums and is everywhere heartily endorsed. During the present year part of the North American collection has been renovated in the way above described and the improvement in its appearance is at once appreciated by those who visit the museum.

In addition to the remounting of 900 specimens of North American birds the Conservator has during the past year identified and catalogued the specimens of Icteridæ contained in the museum numbering 460 specimens and, with the assistance of Mr. Wright, has about finished the cataloguing of the Cærebidæ. The catalogue of the mounted collection now reaches number 3920, the families that have been previously catalogued being the Corvidæ, Para-

disseidæ, Oriolidæ, Dicruridæ, Campophagidæ, Muscicapidæ and all the families of Raptores.

The collection of skins has been steadily increasing. Starting in 1888 with the collection of Dr. W. L. Abbott it now numbers upwards of 5000 specimens. Of these 2213 have been relabelled and catalogued and the labelling of the remainder will soon be completed. The cases in which this collection is contained are overcrowded and additional ones are greatly needed to accommodate the new specimens which are received, as well as the duplicates which it is desired to remove from the exhibition cases.

The additions to the ornithological collection since the organization of the Section have been considerable and many of them of great value.

The most important acquisition is the collection of birds of Florida, Texas and Arizona presented by Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads. These specimens, numbering over 900, were collected by Mr. Rhoads during April, May and June, 1891, on a trip through the south and west. Mr. Rhoads took especial pains to obtain specimens of such species as were not before contained in the Academy's collection, and through his efforts the North American series is now much more nearly complete than ever before. In addition to the presentation of this valuable collection Mr. Rhoads has arranged with collectors in the west to furnish desirable specimens to the Academy and has in many ways advanced the interests of the Ornithological Section.

The West Greenland Expedition brought back a collection of 160 specimens of Arctic birds collected by Drs. Wm. E. Hughes and Benjamin Sharp. These included representatives of 33 species many of which are of great interest.

Mrs. J. L. Claghorn presented a collection of African and Asiatic birds numbering 30 specimens among which were several rarities.

The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club which, by permission of the Academy, has been holding its meetings in the building, has given a collection of beautifully preserved nests of Pennsylvania and New Jersey birds numbering 60 specimens. The eggs accompany most of the nests and there are also several artistically mounted groups of birds. It is the intention of the Club to add to this collection from time to time until it shall contain specimens of

the nests and eggs of all the birds of this vicinity together with finely mounted groups of the birds themselves.

Among the other specimens received were 18 Florida birds purchased from W. S. Dickinson, 45 specimens of California birds from R. B. Herron and 8 specimens from N. and S. Carolina as well as various specimens presented by Mrs. E. B. Chamberlain, I. N. DeHaven, Everett Palmer, I. C. Martindale, Dr. S. G. Dixon, and the Philadelphia Zoological Society.

Shortly after its organization the Section issued a circular soliciting subscriptions to an Endowment Fund to ensure the permanent welfare of the ornithological collection, the idea being to devote the interest to the employment of a special Curator and to the acquiring of additional specimens. A portion of the sum has already been subscribed and it is hoped that the sum of \$10,000 which is wanted for immediate use will soon be raised.

As already mentioned the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club has held its meetings in the Academy during the past year. This has had the effect of drawing the ornithologists of this vicinity to the Academy and awakening an interest in the growth and welfare of its ornithological collection.

At the annual meeting of the Section held December 21st, the following officers were elected :

<i>Director,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Spencer Trotter, M. D.
<i>Vice-Director,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	George S. Morris.
<i>Recorder,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Samuel N. Rhoads.
<i>Secretary,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Charles E. Ridenour.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Isaac C. Martindale.
<i>Conservator,</i>	.	.	.	.	.	Witmer Stone.
						WITMER STONE,
						<i>Conservator.</i>

REPORT OF THE PROFESSOR OF INVERTEBRATE PALEONTOLOGY.

The Professor of Invertebrate Paleontology respectfully reports that the collections in his charge have undergone no material change, beyond increase, since the preparation of his last annual report. The lack of room, from which all departments of the Academy about equally suffer, has prevented any attempt being made toward placing the entire collection into systematic sequence,